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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Tibet/India/USSR

DATE DISTR. 12 September 1952

SUBJECT Proposed Electrification of
Tibetan Towns

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. By the beginning of May the Chinese Communist government had reached an agreement with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade according to which Soviet Russia was to provide plants for establishing thermo-electric stations in six towns in Tibet: Lhasa, Gartok (80-22, 31-45), Gyantse (89-38, 28-57), Zhikatse (88-53, 29-15), Phari Dzong (89-10, 27-45), and Yatung (88-53, 27-26). These towns were to get electricity in 1952.
2. Because of the difficulty of transporting electric plants to Tibet from the Russian border over the Himalayas, the Soviet Foreign Trade authorities suggested to the Chinese Communists that the plants should be sent to Tibet through the port of Calcutta. The Soviet trade agent at Calcutta was directed by the Russian Foreign Trade Ministry to apply to the Government of India for the permit necessary to import the plants from the USSR. The Chinese Communist Embassy through PI Shuo-wang (Counselor of the Embassy and First Secretary) also approached the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, for this permit.
3. According to the Soviet estimate the cost of electrification of six Tibetan towns will amount to Rs. 230,000.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. On 2 May 1952 the Calcutta Statesman reported that among the items the Chinese wanted to ship through Calcutta was hydro-electric equipment ordered from Britain to supply power to Lhasa.

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